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MAN

SPRING ISSUE
No. 1 1940

MAR. NO. 200

BAT MAN

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"ROBIN DIES AT DAWN!"

BAD! AD! HE HIMSELF FOR S ALIEN WORLD!

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R.I.P. BATMAN AND ROBIN!

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

ONCE AGAIN THE *PRINCE OF PANIC* FRIGHT INTO *GOTHAM CITY* WITH THE SPECIFIC GOAL OF HAUNTING *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* RIGHT OUT OF THEIR CRIME-FIGHTING WITS!

THE *CAPED CRUSADERS* CANNOT EVEN *LOOK* UPON THE *TYRANT OF TERROR* NOW WITHOUT TREMBLING WITH FEAR! AND WHEN A HALF-DOZEN *SCARECROWS* LOOM BEFORE THEM, THEY SET THE STAGE FOR THE *DYNAMIC DUO'S DOOM!*

"The MAN WHO RADIATED FEAR!"

BOB KANE

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APPEARING LIKE A HUGE HAYSTACK AGAINST THE GRAYISH WINTER SKY, A BARN-LIKE HAYSTACK RISES IN THE FARMLAND TO THE WEST OF GOTHAM CITY...

INSIDE, WITHIN A DARK, EERIE LOFT STANDS THAT FELON OF FRIGHT-- THE SCARECROW!

I'VE FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH YOU, SCARECROW!

I'M TAKING YOU IN!

AAAGH! G-GET AWAY FROM M-ME, BATMAN!

NO! NO! I--CAN'T STAND IT... ANY LONGER...

T-THERE'S ON-ONLY ONE WAY TO ST-STOP TH-THIS...

T-TAKE THE AN-ANTIDOTE...

ANTIDOTE? FOR WHAT?

HA HA HA! I OUT-SCARED THE SCARECROW!

YOU PUT ON A GREAT BAT-ACT, LARRY! THE EXPERIMENT WAS A SUCCESS!

LATER, AFTER THE FELON OF FEAR HAS SUMMONED THE REST OF HIS GANG...

LARRY JUST OOZED FEAR! HE TOOK THE FEAR-RADIATING PILL THAT I CONCOCTED AND IT WORKED TO PERFECTION!

IT CAUSED A PSYCHO-CHEMICAL REACTION IN MY MIND--MAKING ME SO FRIGHTENED I COULD HARDLY THINK STRAIGHT!

NOW I HAVE THE PERFECT WAY TO SCARE BATMAN RIGHT OUT OF HIS CRIME-FIGHTING WITS! HA HA HA!

SOME NIGHTS LATER, ON THE WORLD-FAMOUS GOTHAM JEWELRY ROW...

THIS WAITING IS GETTING TO ME, SCARECROW! WE'VE BEEN ROOTED TO THIS SPOT FOR FOUR NIGHTS NOW AND BATMAN STILL HASN'T SHOWN UP!

PATIENCE, MR. RAYBOURNE, PATIENCE! HE WILL COME EVENTUALLY!

AH-- LISTEN NOW!

PLACES, EVERYONE! OUR LOOKOUT HAS SPOTTED HIM COMING THIS WAY!

HELP! THE JEWELRY STORE'S BEIN' ROBBED!

LOOKS LIKE WE ARRIVED JUST AT THE RIGHT TIME, BATMAN!

WITH FLYING FISTS AND GLIB VOICES THE DYNAMIC DUO LAUNCHES INTO COMBAT...

OOPS, PARDON ME! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A WEAK STOMACH!

HA HA!

ALWAYS THE COMEDIAN, oh, ROBIN? LOOK AT HIM— DOUBLING UP WITH LAUGHTER!

OOF!

WAIT A COUPLA OF SECONDS— THEN SEE WHO MAKES WITH THE JOKES!

WAK!

SUDDENLY, A FEARFUL FEELING QUIETS THEIR TONGUES...

WH—?!

EH—?!

RAP!

I AM, BATMAN! GAZE ON ME— AND FEAR!!

THEIR FACES CONTORTING WITH FEAR, THE CAPED CRUSADERS FALL BACK...

I-I'M S-SCARED, BATMAN!

S-SO AM I! WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

DIRECT CURRENTS

JOE'S a pro. He's had vast experience, attends to every detail, and leaves no margin for error. What does he do? He makes a living out of dying. His business is assassination, but when he's hired to eliminate **PLASTIC MAN**, our **HUMAN RUBBER BAND** turns it into monkey business in **"JOE, THE KILLER PRO,"** in the **April** ish, **No. 9,** on sale Jan. 16!

Throughout the jungle echoes the cry: **"FIND BOMBA! KILL BOMBA!"** And as the deadly trap closes in around him, DC's famed **JUNGLE BOY** must inevitably fall victim to **"THE DEADLY STING OF ANA CONDA!"** It's another saga of the **SOUTH AMERICAN** wilds, in the **April** issue of **BOMBA THE JUNGLE BOY, No. 4,** on the stands Jan. 16!

All that glitters is not OLD—as **WILDCAT** proves when he springs out of the **GOLDEN AGE OF COMICS** to join forces with **THE SPECTRE** in haunting combat against **"THE MENACE OF THE MYSTIC MASTERMIND!"** You'll find this double-hero epic in the **April** issue of the **GHOSTLY GUARDIAN'S** mag—**No. 3,** on sale Jan. 16!

METAMORPHO condemned to DIE! METAMORPHO sentenced by a court to spend eternity in a deep-freeze! Did he really commit the murder of which he is accused? The ELEMENT MAN himself thinks he did! See if he's right in the **April** issue of his mag, **No. 17!** You'll find it on sale everywhere Jan. 23!

Who are the three monkeys on **ROBIN'S** back—goading, teasing, tormenting him? Why is the **BOY WONDER** powerless against them? The startling answer is revealed in the electrifying tale titled **"REQUIEM FOR A TITAN,"** in the **April** issue of **TEEN TITANS, No. 14!** It's a real shock-filled saga, and it's on sale Jan. 23!

The title is . . . **BEWARE THE CREEPER!** The plot and art are by **STEVE DITKO!** The magazine is . . . the **April SHOWCASE, No. 73,** which hits the newsstands Jan. 23! Who . . . or what . . . is **THE CREEPER?** You'll find out when you read it! If you're familiar with **STEVE'S** work, you know a treat awaits you, and if not . . . wait'll you see it!

What heroes can rush to the rescue of a little old lady . . . and get beaten up . . . by the little old lady? You're right . . . **THE INFERIOR FIVE!** But that's only the beginning of the maddest chase in comics (this month, anyway)! **JOE ORLANDO** takes over as editor and the I 5 are wilder than ever, in the **April** ish, **No. 7,** on sale Jan. 23!

WHO'S AFRAID OF Y-Y-YOU, S-SCARECROW?

UHH-- NO!

M-MUST G-GET AWAY FROM H-HIM...

AAAGHH! E GO AW--UHH!

THEY'RE OUT COLD! COLLAPSED FROM FRIGHT! HA HA HA!

NOW'S THE TIME TO GET RID O' BATMAN FOREVER!

NO-- STOP!

WHY KILL HIM? BATMAN'S SO SCARED OF ME NOW HE WON'T EVER BOTHER US AGAIN!

BESIDES, I LIKE IT MUCH BETTER THIS WAY--KNOWING HE'S COMPLETELY AFRAID OF ME!

AFTER THE *NIGHTMARE NEMESIS* HAS VANISHED INTO THE NIGHT...

G-G-GET AWAY FR-FROM M-ME, S-SC-SCARECROW!

I-IT'S OKAY R-ROBIN-- H-H-HE'S G-GONE!

WITH A WATERFALL OF SWEAT ON THEIR FACES AND QUIVERING LIMBS TO RIVAL AN EARTHQUAKE, THE DUO STUMBLES TOWARD THE *BATMOBILE*...

W-WE B-BETTER GET B-BACK T-TO THE *B-BATCAVE!*

M-MY HAND--STILL SH-SHAKING!

C-CAN'T FIT THE K-KEY INTO... THE IG-IGNITION...!

AN AGONIZING HALF-HOUR LATER...

WE WERE L-LUCKY TRAFFIC WAS LIGHT! IN HIS C-CONDITION *BATMAN* C-COULD HAVE GOTTEN INTO AN ACCIDENT!

INSIDE THE SECRET SANCTUARY...

MISTER WAYNE! MASTER DICK! WHAT CALAMITY HAS STRUCK YOU?

THE *S-SCARECROW...* ALFRED!

AFTER RECOVERING ENOUGH FROM THEIR SHOCK, THE HAUNTED HEROES SPILL OUT THEIR TERRIFYING TALE...

--AND ALL OF A SUDDEN THE SCARECROW POPPED UP AND WE JUST BLEW OUR COOL!

HE WAS LIKE A RADIATOR OF FEAR! THE CLOSER WE GOT TO HIM, THE MORE FRIGHTENED WE BECAME!

I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF EVER SEEING HIM AGAIN-- OR ANY OTHER CROOK! WE MIGHT AS WELL HANG UP OUR CAPES -- WE'RE FINISHED AS CRIME-FIGHTERS!

THEY HAVE LOST THEIR MOTIVATIONAL DRIVE THROUGH THIS OVERWHELMING FEAR! I MUST TRY TO BRING THEM OUT OF IT!

FORGIVE MY BOLDNESS, SIRE, BUT YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME!

"MANY YEARS AGO, DR. THOMAS WAYNE, HIS WIFE MARTHA, AND THEIR YOUNG SON WERE WALKING HOME FROM A MOVIE WHEN..."

THIS IS A STICK-UP! I'LL TAKE THAT NECKLACE YOU'RE WEARIN', LADY!

YOU HOODLUM! DON'T YOU DARE PUT A HAND ON MY WIFE!

THIS'LL KEEP YOU QUIET!

UHHHH

KRAK

"THAT SINGLE BULLET REALLY KILLED TWO PEOPLE, FOR MARTHA WAYNE'S WEAK HEART STOPPED FROM THE SUDDEN SHOCK!"

THEY'RE DEAD! YOU KILLED THEM... YOU KILLED MY MOTHER AND FATHER!

STOP LOOKIN' AT ME LIKE THAT!

"SOMETHING ABOUT THE YOUNG KID'S ACCUSING EYES MADE THE KILLER RETREAT! HE SIMPLY DISAPPEARED! SOON AFTER, THE YOUNG BOY MADE A MANFUL PROMISE..."

I SWEAR I'LL DEDICATE MY LIFE AND INHERITANCE TO BRINGING YOUR KILLER TO JUSTICE... AND FIGHTING ALL CRIMINALS! I SWEAR IT!

WAYNE

THOMAS

"THE YEARS PASSED AS THE BOY PREPARED FOR HIS CHOSEN CAREER!"

"HE MASTERED SCIENTIFIC CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION."

"HE TRAINED HIS BODY TO SUCH PHYSICAL AND ATHLETIC PERFECTION THAT HE COULD PERFORM ANY DAREDEVIL FEAT..."

"THEN ONE DAY HE WAS READY FOR HIS NEW ROLE!"

CRIMINALS ARE A SUPERSTITIOUS, COWARDLY LOT, SO I MUST WEAR A DISGUISE THAT WILL STRIKE TERROR IN THEIR HEARTS! I MUST BE A CREATURE OF THE NIGHT, LIKE A... A...

"AND, AS IF IN ANSWER, A WINGED CREATURE FLEW IN THROUGH THE OPEN WINDOW!"

A BAT! THAT'S IT! IT'S LIKE AN OMEN! I SHALL BECOME A BAT!

"THUS WAS BORN THIS WEIRD FIGURE OF THE SHADOWS... THIS DARK AVENGER OF EVIL-- BATMAN!"

SOMEDAY I'LL FIND THE KILLER OF MY PARENTS... SOME DAY...

AND YOU **DID** FIND HIM, MR. WAYNE, BECAUSE **YOU** WERE THAT MAN! **YOU** MADE THAT SOLEMN VOW! DON'T **EVER** FORGET THAT!

AND YOU, MASTER DICK...

"REMEMBER IN THE OLD CIRCUS DAYS, WHEN YOU WERE A MEMBER OF THE ACROBATIC **FLYING GRAYSONS**?"

"THEN, ONE DAY, AS YOUR PARENTS WERE PERFORMING THEIR DEATH-DEFYING ACT, THE **TRIPLE SPIN**..."

EEEEEE

THE ROPES HAVE BROKEN!

OH... NO! MOTHER! DAD!

"THEY WERE KILLED INSTANTLY! LATER, ON YOUR WAY BACK TO YOUR DRESSING ROOM, YOU PASSED THE CIRCUS-OWNER'S DOOR AND HEARD..."

TOO BAD ABOUT THAT "**ACCIDENT**," HALEY!

YEAH, IT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF YA'D **PAID** US TO "**PROTECT**" 'EM!

YOU MURDERING--! ALL RIGHT... I'LL PAY **NOW**!"

BATMAN!

YOU CAN'T GO TO THE POLICE YET, DICK! WE NEED **PROOF**! GETTING IT WILL BE **MY** JOB!

THEY MURDERED MOM AND DAD! I'M GOING TO THE POLICE!

NO, BOY... NOT YET!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

YOU TOO CAN PLAY THE GAME

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SUPERGIRL LOSES HER POWERS. GO BACK 1.

LESLA-LAR, SUPERGIRL'S FOE. LOSE 1 TURN.

AND HERE I AM AT LAST, AS "THE WORLD'S GREATEST HEROINE!"

FIGHTING GERMS IN A HUMAN BLOODSTREAM. STAY 1 TURN.

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES. GO TO FINISH.

FINISH

ENTER DICK MALVERNE GO AHEAD 1.

JERRY THE MERBOY. GO AHEAD 2.

SUPERGIRL REGAINS HER POWERS. GO AHEAD 2.

RED KRYPTONITE. LOSE 1 TURN.

ADVENTURES IN KANDOR. STAY HERE 1 TURN.

THE INFINITE MONSTER. GO BACK 2.

MR. MXYZPTLK. SAY YOUR NAME BACKWARD.

LINDA BECOMES FAT. LOSE 1 TURN.

SUPERGIRL'S IMMUNE TO KRYPTONITE. GO AHEAD 3.

Starting JAN 9th AT YOUR NEWSDEALER

"HOWEVER, YOU PERSUADED BATMAN TO LET YOU ASSIST HIM IN YOUR PARENT'S MURDERER'S CAPTURE! BUT FIRST YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH A TRAINING PERIOD..."

THERE HE IS! THE MOB-BOSS THAT KILLED MY PARENTS!

HUH? IT'S A KID... ONLY A KID!

"THEN DONNING A PROPER DISGUISE AND AN APPROPRIATE NAME TO MATCH, YOU-- ROBIN-- WENT AFTER YOUR PARENT'S KILLERS!"

BUT YOU PROVED YOU WERE MORE THEN A "KID" MASTER DICK! EVIDENCE YOU GATHERED CONVICTED THE MOB!

AND SURELY YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOUR PLEDGE TO FIGHT CRIME AS A MEMORIAL TO YOUR PARENTS?

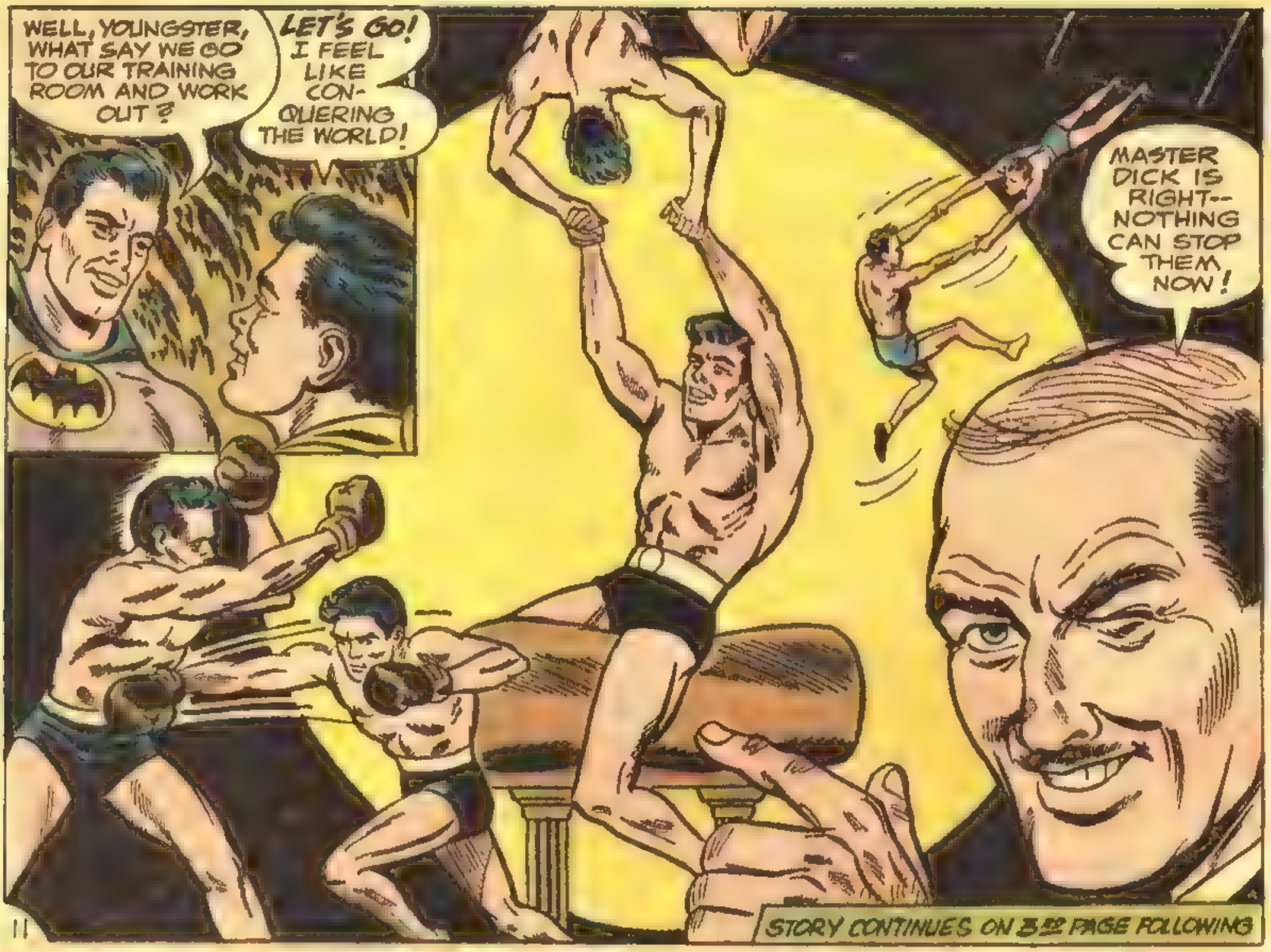
THEIR FACES STICHED IN INTENSE CONCENTRATION, THE PAIR REFLECTS THE FAITHFUL BUTLER'S HEAVY WORDS...

WAS THAT ENOUGH TO BRING THEM OUT OF THEIR FEAR?

THEN...

WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH, ALFRED! I GUESS WE HAD LOST SIGHT OF OUR ORIGINAL PURPOSES! WE'RE GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR REMINDING US!

WE MAY BECOME AFRAID-- AGAIN-- BUT THAT WON'T STOP US NOW!


WELL, YOUNGSTER, WHAT SAY WE GO TO OUR TRAINING ROOM AND WORK OUT?
LET'S GO! I FEEL LIKE CONQUERING THE WORLD!
MASTER DICK IS RIGHT-- NOTHING CAN STOP THEM NOW!
STORY CONTINUES ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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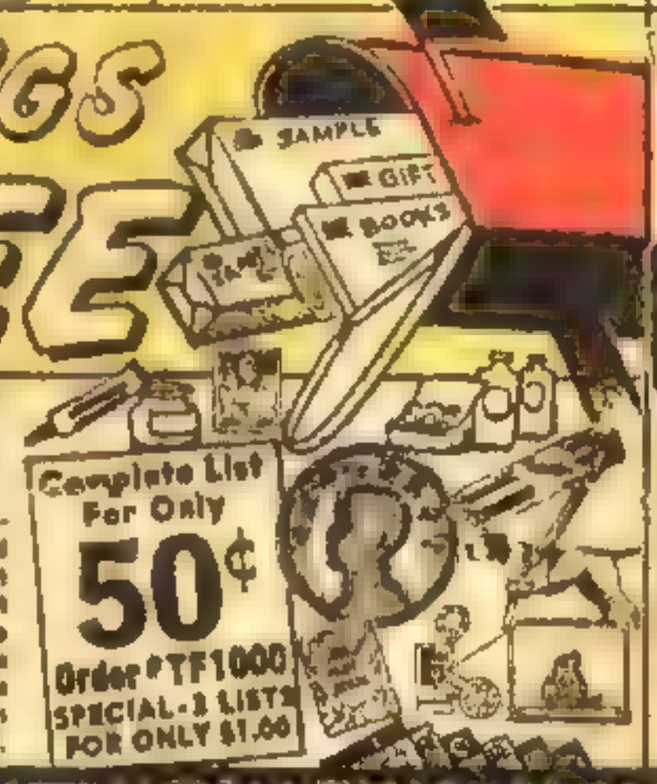

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LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

DEAR EDITOR:

As you start to read my letter, from the depths of your mind you're thinking that here's another fan complaining of not seeing *Batman's* peepers through his mask, or his abdomen is too muscular, or why hasn't *Robin* aged and have a ten-foot long beard!

Well, I can understand your feelings but on the contrary (sit down for this one), I'm here to praise you! Yes, *Batman* 196 was an elating masterpiece of originality. The cover was superb, the best ever in *Batman* comics. The shadow on *Robin's* features was tremendously vivid, showing extreme realism. The cover-story, "The Psychic Super-Sleuth," was as great as its art. The action was good and very constant. The "super-sleuth" reminded me of Agatha Christie's *Hercule Poirot.* Incidentally, the title was the only thing that struck me the wrong way. The word "super" could have been left out. (Now I tell you!)

The second story, "The Purloined Parchment Puzzle," was grand in the *Batman* tradition with a really stumper of a mystery. Thanks for having a solo story without that *Holy Boy Wonder* cracking puns that make me head for the aspirin bottle for relief.

I can just repeat—great work and success in the future. (By the way, how come you don't show the eyes through the mask...)

—Ricky Hussian, Lexington, Ky.

(The eyes are not shown because of the grand old *Batman* tradition not to do so.—*Editor*)

• • • • •

DEAR EDITOR:

I am sure there will be no shortage of comments on the cover story of the November *Batman*, so I would like to confine my critique to the "Parchment Puzzle." Why? Because I feel the author did such a fine job of taking one of the traditional (and most enjoyable) mystery formats, the "locked room problem," and fashioning a story so well suited to the medium in which it appeared, the comic magazine. How so?

(1) The "locked room" is usually a "quiet" sort of story—however, the writer included fine action scenes necessary to a comic mag story. He managed not to simply fit them in, but made these scenes an integral and necessary part of the whole. (The secondary crime-shots leading *Batman* to the main crime, for instance.)

(2) The use of the courtroom setting—much livelier than "everybody sits around in a group of talky panels and explains the problem." In other words, by combining the trial and flashback, the "who was where when" became a group of interesting, active scenes.

(3) Finally, the mystery itself. I'm certainly no expert, but I think this kind of story is most effective when the clues are all in plain sight, but clever enough to keep you guessing till the end. And this was precisely what was done. Again, having the clue a visual one was perfect for a pictorial medium. And such a nice, plausible clue. I guessed that the culprit had to be the guard, I even figured out that the clock had to be involved. But the reason for its involvement stumped me right down to the finish, even though all the evidence was right there in plain sight. Perfect! As was the likewise plausible bluff about the fingerprints.

—Moira L. Maynard, St. Paul, Minn.

(And that "locks up" another favorable comment. In all fairness, let's unlock another door for a horsy comment of another color.—*Editor*)

• • • • •

DEAR EDITOR:

Batman 196. November, 1967. Hmmm...

The cover...hmm...If I were attempting to explain this cover in terms one *Guy* did, I'd fail miserably. Of course, I shall anyway, but this way I have sort of a chance. The "different" thing about this particular cover is that up is not up and down is not down, but rather upper left is up and lower right is down and the center of interest is not where it should be either, in the upper center or thereabouts. All in all, a highly disastisfying cover.

"The Psychic Super-Sleuth"...hmmm...even though the first actual story panel consisted of a lousy picture of the *Batmobile*, the overall art was very nice. One particular fact of art that amazes me is how Bob Kane was able to draw Dubrov and his impostor looking so much alike yet with noticeable difference. The story itself—plot, characterization, and so forth—was not as good. The plot might have made a very nice yarn had it been handled with a little more skill. Since the fad is to guess who wrote the story, I'm going to say it was done by John Broome, only because I did not find it to have the originality I usually connect with a Gardner Fox-written tale.

"The Purloined Parchment Puzzle"...hmmm... Once again the art was nothing spectacular, but the plot was far superior to the first story. Though the *whodunit* was the old "butler-did-it" bit, it was very nicely handled.

Isn't that rather ridiculous? In the first story, you had every opportunity to pull off the fakeout of the year, but instead gave us a slow, implausible tale with dialogue that stunk. Then the second story, which really had no chance at all, being the type of thing which reads well only in a text-story format; by pure technique, this bound-to-be-bad story pulled out as the black horse of the month into a very nice story with a few panels of art that had great possibilities. The author of this tale is very obviously Gardner Fox, as he has a way of utilizing old themes and turning them into solid stories. Hmmm...

—Steven Carlberg, Nicoma Park, Okla.

(That *is* ridiculous, to go you one better—both stories in this issue, with their ups and down, were written by Gardner Fox! And this once, to save you and fellow-*Batmaniacs* the trouble of figuring out who authored this 200th issue's book-lengther, it was one of your very own, Mike (the pro) Friedrich!—*Editor*)

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Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

THIS IS THE FIRST PAGE OF THE VERY FIRST *BATMAN* STORY-- PUBLISHED IN *DETECTIVE COMICS* #27. MAY, 1939.

THE "BAT-MAN"

by Bob't Kane

THE CASE OF THE CHEMICAL SYNDICATE

THE "BAT-MAN", A MYSTERIOUS AND ADVENTUROUS FIGURE, FIGHTING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS AND APPREHENDING THE WRONG DOER, IN HIS LONE BATTLE AGAINST THE EVIL FORCES OF SOCIETY... HIS IDENTITY REMAINS UNKNOWN.

THE HOME OF COMMISSIONER GORDON, WHO AT THE MOMENT IS ENTERTAINING HIS YOUNG SOCIALITE FRIEND BRUCE WAYNE

WELL COMMISSIONER ANYTHING EXCITING HAPPENING THESE DAYS?

-NO-O EXCEPT THIS FELLOW THEY CALL THE "BAT-MAN" PUZZLES ME!

RING!

HELLO... WHAT'S THAT? LAMBERT, THE CHEMICAL KING... STABBED TO DEATH? HIS SON'S FINGER PRINTS ON THE KNIFE? I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!

-TALK ABOUT SOMETHING EXCITING.. OLD LAMBERT HAS BEEN MURDERED AT HIS MANSION... I'M GOING THERE NOW LIKE TO COME ALONG?

OH WELL, NOTHING ELSE TO DO, MIGHT AS WELL

THE COMMISSIONER AND BRUCE WAYNE, SPEED TOWARD THE LAMBERT RESIDENCE..

HELLO SERGEANT, EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL?

YES SIR, WE'VE GOT YOUNG LAMBERT IN THE BACK ROOM!

..AND AFTER A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF THE SCENE OF THE CRIME THE ROOM BECOMES BUSY WITH THE USUAL POLICE ROUTINE...

WELL I'M FINISHED IN HERE, LET ME TALK TO YOUNG LAMBERT

HELLO LAMBERT, THEY SAY YOU KILLED YOUR FATHER!

I DIDN'T DO IT! COMMISSIONER, BELIEVE ME, I DIDN'T DO IT!!!

WITH RENEWED VITALITY, THE *CAPED CRUSADER* AND *TEEN TITAN* DEVOTE ALL OF THEIR ENERGIES AND TALENTS TOWARD ONE OBJECTIVE : THE CAPTURE OF THE *SCARECROW!* ONE NIGHT, NEAR A RARE BOOK STORE...

THE JOKER'S NOT WHOM WE'RE LOOKING FOR, BUT WE'RE NOT ONES TO PASS UP AN OPPORTUNITY...

COLLECTORS RARE BOOKS

HOW'D YOU GUESS WHERE I WOULD STRIKE? I DIDN'T LEAVE A CLUE THIS TIME!

THE JOKE'S ON YOU, JOKER! WE WEREN'T EVEN LOOKING FOR YOU!

HEY, WHAT'S THIS IN HIS HAIR?

TWO RED *STRAWS!* THE *SCARECROW'S* CALLING CARDS!

HA, HA! THE JOKE'S ON *YOU*-- FIGURE IT OUT FOR *YOUR-SELVES!*

WONDER WHERE THE STRAWS CAME FROM-- I NEVER SAW THEM BEFORE!

LIKE BOYS CATCHING BUTTERFLIES IN THE PARK, THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTERS NET KILLER MOTH IN MID-CRIME...

BATMAN AND ROBIN?!

WE'RE SURE NOT SUGAR AND SPUKE!

LET ME SOCK IT TO YA, BABY!

RAP!

SOCK!

IT'S HAPPENED AGAIN, ROBIN! LOOK AT HIS BOOTS!

FOUR WHITE STRAWS!

NEXT, THE GOTHAM GANGBUSTERS FIND THEMSELVES CHAGING A CERTAIN BIRDMAN BANDIT...

WE HUNT FOR A CERTAIN BIRD...AND WIND UP WITH ANOTHER...

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FLY THE COUP THIS TIME, PENGUIN!

PSHAW! MY UNEQUALED UMBRELLA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY LEAD TO YOUR UNDOING, DYNAMIC DUO!

WATCH OUT, ROBIN! THERE'S ALWAYS DANGER WHEN PENGUIN POINTS ONE OF HIS UMBRELLAS!

BUT INSTEAD OF DANGER...

FIVE OF 'EM! THE SCARE-CROW AGAIN!

EGAD-- BLUE STRAWS?!

NICE GOIN', ROBIN! YOU LEFT ME HOLDING THE BAG!

IN THE *HAYSTACK HIDE-OUT* OF THE *SCARECROW*...

"BATMAN GAGS JOKER"--
"KILLER MOTH NETTED"--
"BIROMAN CAGED"--

I THOUGHT YOU SAID *BATMAN* WOULD BE OUT OF ACTION AFTER YOU TOOK CARE OF HIM, *SCARECROW!*

YEAH! AND HOW COME WE'VE BEEN COOPED UP ALL THIS TIME? WE'RE NOT MAKING ANY DOUGH SITTING *HERE!*

PATIENCE, MR. RAYBOURNE, PATIENCE! APPARENTLY THEY HAVE TRIED TO RESTORE THEIR CONFIDENCE UP BY CAPTURING *OTHER* CRIMINALS!

PERSONALLY, I HAVE NO CONCERN ABOUT CONFRONTING THEM AGAIN—AS SOON AS THEY INTERPRET THOSE CLUES I PLANTED!

I'M BIDING MY TIME UNTIL *BATMAN THINKS* HE CAN FACE ME AGAIN!

BUT WE *KNOW* THAT *BATMAN DOESN'T KNOW* HE CAN'T POSSIBLY FACE ME WITHOUT COLLAPSING FROM FRIGHT!

AND AT THE SAME TIME, IN THE *BATCAVE*...

THESE STRAWS ARE OBVIOUSLY SOME CLUE FROM THE *SCARECROW* TO WHERE HE'LL APPEAR NEXT! BUT HOW DID THEY GET ON THE *JOKER, PENGUIN,* AND *KILLER MOTH*?

I WISH I KNEW!

HMMM...TWO RED STRAWS, FOUR WHITE ONES, AND FIVE BLUE...

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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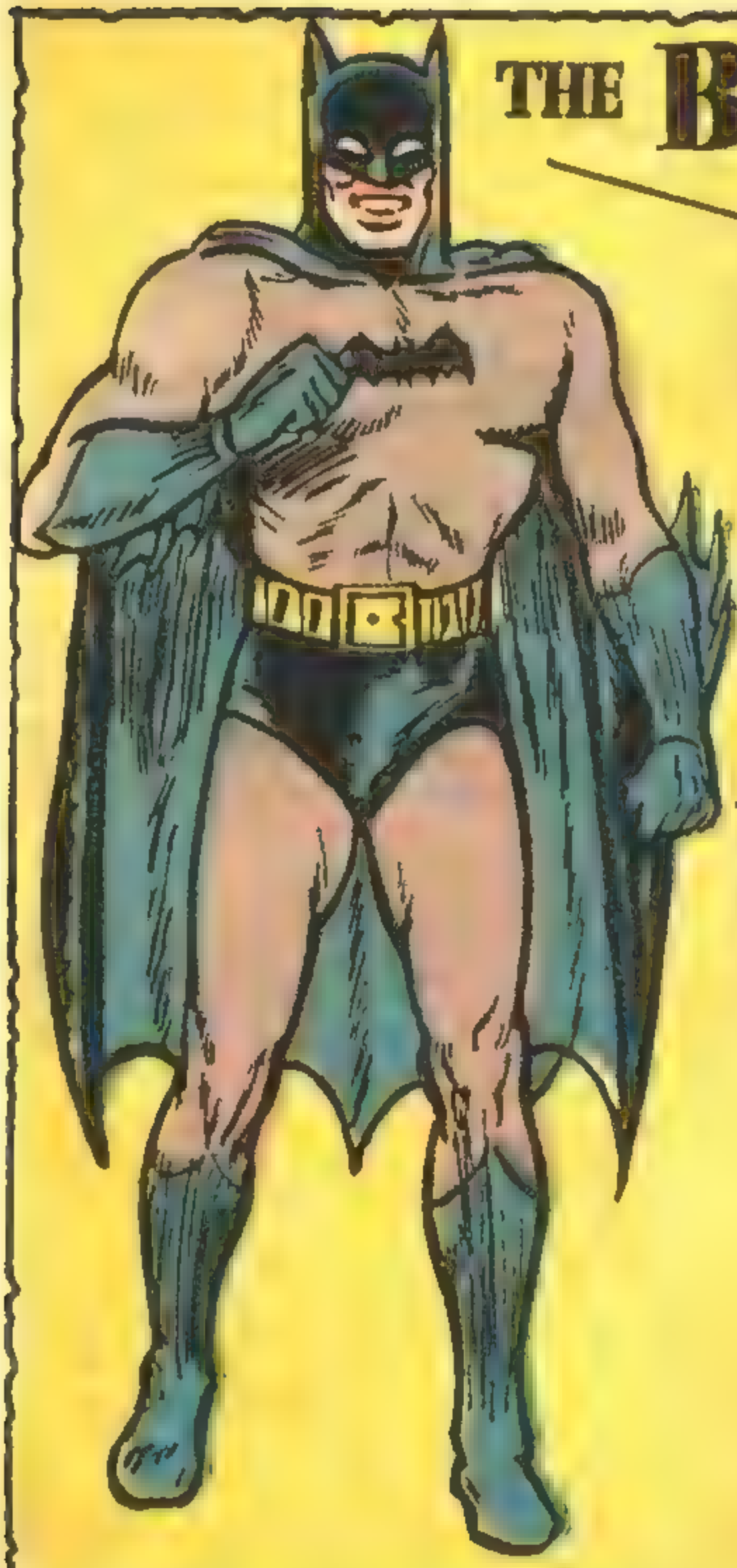

Hello, readers. Now that you've read all these new adventures of mine and Robin's, I'd like to talk right AT you for a minute or so.

I think Robin and I made it pretty clear that WE HATE CRIME AND CRIMINALS! There's nothing we like better than to crack down on the distasteful denizens of the underworld. Why? Because we're proud of being AMERICANS—and we know there's no place in this great country of ours for lawbreakers!

That phrase, "CRIME DOES NOT PAY," has been used over and over again to the point where I hesitate to repeat it. But remember this: IT'S JUST AS TRUE NOW AS IT EVER WAS—AND THAT'S PLENTY TRUE!

Sure, it may seem that lawbreakers DO get away with breaking the law. Some may get away with it longer than others. But in the end, every crook gets what's coming to him—and that means plenty of trouble with the law!

Robin and I hope that our adventures may help to "put over" that fact. We'd like to feel that our efforts may help every youngster to grow up into an honest, useful citizen.

It depends on YOU and YOU and YOU. You've got to govern your own lives so that they can be worthwhile, fruitful lives—not lives wasted in prison, or even thrown away altogether before the ready guns of the law-enforcement agents whose duty it is to guard those of us who are honest from those of us who are not. And not only must you guide your OWN life in the proper channels—you must also strive to be a good influence on the lives of others.

If you do all this, if you are definitely on the side of Law and Order, then Robin and I salute you and are glad to number you among our friends!

. . . And what the BATMAN says goes DOUBLE for me!

Adapted from a page that appeared in BATMAN No. 3, Fall, 1940 issue

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Act of October 23, 1962: Section 4369, Title 39 United States Code)

1. Date of Filing: October 1st, 1967. 2. Title of Publication: BATMAN
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8. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and other Security Holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities (If there are none, so state): None.
9. Paragraphs 7 and 8 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner. Names and address of individuals who are stockholders of a corporation which itself is a stockholder or holder of bonds, mortgages or other securities of the publishing corporation have been included in paragraphs 7 and 8 when the interests of such individuals are equivalent to 1 percent or more of the total amount of the stock or securities of the publishing corporation.

10. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Single Issue Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. Copies Printed (Net Press Run)	1,198,000	970,000
B. Paid Circulation 1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	794,000	565,000
2. Mail subscriptions	11,700	9,300
C. Total Paid Circulation	805,700	574,300
D. Free Distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier or other means	340	340
E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D):	806,040	574,640
F. Office Use, Left-Over, Unaccounted, Spoiled After Printing:	391,960	395,360
G. Total (Sum of E and F—should equal net press run shown in A):	1,198,000	970,000

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. IRWIN DONENFELD, Business Manager.

5 A.M.--AN ELITE FUR COMPANY STORE HAS UNINVITED VISITORS...

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BREAKING INSIDE...

B-B-BATMAN-- HERE?!

HE'S A FOOL-HARDY ENOUGH HERO TO BE HERE, ALL RIGHT!

HE MIGHT BE OVER--THERE!

OR OVER HERE--!

SUDDENLY LIGHT FLOODS THE STORE...

OR UP HERE, SCARECROW!

HOW CAN YOU STAND TO EVEN COME NEAR ME, BATMAN? YOUR FEAR OF ME SHOULD STOP...

NOTHING'S STOPPING ME NOW! I'VE BEEN BRAIN-WASHED!

RAP!

WHAT'S THIS? HOW ARE THEY HOLDING UP? THEY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO EVEN STAND UP!

HE IS SCARED! I CAN PRACTICALLY HEAR HIS HEART BEATING LIKE A DRUM! HE'S JUST TRYING TO HIDE THE FACT-- BUT HE DOESN'T FOOL ME!

ROBIN IS ALSO BUSY AT "WORK"...

THIS IS "FUR" YOU!

OUR GUNS'LL STOP YOUR GAGS!

ZOK!

CRAK!

TURNABOUT IS "FUR" PLAY!

I'M NOT GIVING MYSELF TIME TO BE AFRAID!

MERRILY I ROLL ALONG...

MEANWHILE, THE HARD-PRESSED *SCARECROW* RACES DOWN A STAIRWAY...

THEIR DETERMINATION IS *FANTASTIC!* I'LL HAVE TO RESORT TO MY *ALTERNATE PLAN!*

ONLY THIS TIME I'LL HAVE TO KILL THEM INSTEAD OF LETTING THEM GO! I CAN'T RISK HAVING *THIS* HAPPEN *AGAIN!*

WHY'S HE GRABBING THAT ROPE?

I GUESS HE'S ADMITTING HE'S AT HIS ROPE'S END!

A TUG OF THE ROPE AND...

IF ONE *SCARECROW* CAN'T DO THE TRICK-- A *HALF DOZEN WILL!*

T-TOO F-FRIGHTENED AGAIN--TO KEEP-- G-GOING--

P-PASSING--OUT--

UNDER THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS ONSLAUGHT OF *SIX SCARECROWS, BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* CRUMBLE LIKE PAPER DOLLS...

AHHH!!

OOOOOAAA

WHEN THE *CRUSADERS* COME TO--THEY FACE AN AUTOMATIC FIRING SQUAD IN THE HAYSTACK HIDE-OUT...

CAREFUL, **BATMAN!** DON'T TREMBLE **TOO** HARD! I ONLY TIED YOUR WRISTS WITH STRINGS--AND THOSE GUNS ARE SET ON A **HAIR TRIGGER** THAT WILL GO OFF IF THOSE STRINGS ARE EVEN SLIGHTLY **MOVED!**

HEY, **BATMAN!** YA **HUNGRY?** I GOT A **DELICIOUS HERO** SAND-WICH HERE! **HA-HA!**

HOW 'BOUT AN **ICE-COLD COKE, ROBIN?**

ROBERTS, BETCHA A GRAND THAT **BATMAN PANICS** FIRST--MOVES THE STRING AND GETS SHOT!

NAWWH, BILJO, HE'S TOO **SCARED** TO MOVE! HE'LL DIE OF STARVATION! I'LL **TAKE** THAT BET!

THAT GUN--LIKE THE GUN THAT KILLED MY PARENTS! ALFRED IS **RIGHT!** I **VOWED** TO CAPTURE LAWBREAKERS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE! MUST GET OUT OF THIS! LOOKS EASY ENOUGH...

THESE **STRINGS**--LIKE THE **TRAPEZE WIRES** THAT MY PARENTS WERE KILLED ON! ALFRED'S **RIGHT!** I'VE **GOT** TO OVERCOME THIS FEAR--CAPTURE CRIMINALS!

HMMM... SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO GET OUT OF THIS TRAP...

NOW!

CAREFUL NOT TO MOVE THEIR WRISTS, THE EVER-RESOURCEFUL TEAMMATES BEND FORWARD AS FAR AS THEY CAN...

THEN, FLEXING POWERFUL LEG MUSCLES, THEY FLIP THEMSELVES OVER, SIMULTANEOUSLY SNAPPING THEIR WRIST-STRINGS...

BAM! BAM! BAM!

SNAP! SNAP! SNAP!

WHO'S A HERO NOW, FRIEND?

BET'S OFF, BOYS--YOU BOTH LOSE!

QUICKLY RESORTING TO THEIR UTILITY BELTS, THE CLOAKED CRIME-FIGHTERS SWING THEIR BATROPES AROUND THE RAFTERS, EXPLODING INTO ACTION WITH A VENGEANCE NOT SEEN SINCE THEIR FIRST DAYS...

THIS IS GUARANTEED TO HOLD YOUR HAIR IN PLACE!

THE SCARECROW SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN COLD FEET! I'LL GO AFTER HIM!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

WHO'D THINK I'D *EVER* HAVE TO RESORT TO A *GUN* TO SCARE *BATMAN*?

I'M TAKING YOU IN!

AAAGHH! GET AWAY FROM ME, *BATMAN!*

I *CAN'T* S-SHOOT! I-I'M *AFRAID!*

I'VE FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH YOU, *SCARECROW!*

MY PLAN *B-BACKFIRED!* WHEN *BATMAN* SAID THE SAME WORDS LARRY USED ON ME IN THE INITIAL EXPERIMENT, IT S-SET ME OFF AGAIN!

AAAAAGH! NOT EVEN MY ANTIDOTE CAN HELP ME NOW!

SOMETIME LATER, IN THE *BATCAVE TROPHY ROOM*...

WHAT SHALL I WRITE ON THE CRIME-FILE CARD FOR THESE STRAWS, *MASTER WAYNE*? I FAIL TO SEE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THEM!

THEY WERE THE CLUES THAT TIPPED US OFF TO THE *SCARECROW'S* FUR STORE ROBBERY!

THE *RED, WHITE,* AND *BLUE* COLORS SUGGESTED THE COLORS OF THE *FLAG* AND THE *NUMBERS* GAVE US THE ADDRESS--*245 FLAGG STREET!*

THEY WERE A DOUBLE CLUE! THE NUMBERS *2* AND *4* ALSO GAVE US THE *DATE, FEB. 4TH*-- WHILE THE *5* MEANT THE *TIME, 5 O'CLOCK!*

AND ONCE WE KNEW THE TIME AND PLACE--THE STAGE WAS SET TO UP-STAGE THE VILLAIN OF THE DRAMA--THE *SCARECROW!*

THE END

The SCARLET SPEEDSTER "PUTS ON" a NEW PERSONALITY and a HEAD TO MATCH! in "The SWELL-HEADED SUPER-HERO!"

ON SALE JAN. 18TH

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The FLASH

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE? YOU'D THINK THEY NEVER SAW *THE FLASH* BEFORE!

DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO BATMANIACS UPON BATMAN REACHING ISSUE 200

EDITOR'S NOTE:

When the time came around to start thinking about doing something really special for this 200th anniversary mag, we hit upon the idea of revisiting the great stories of past *issues! And what better person would know what these classics were than the number one all-time* Batman *fan, Biljo White? So we dispatched fellow* Batmaniac *Mike Friedrich to interview Biljo in his Columbia, Missouri* "Batcave." *The following excerpts are from their brief discussion:*

Mike: I guess the best way to start is to ask what is *the* favorite *Batman* story of yours?

Biljo: I've always considered *Batman* #1-Spring 1940-to be the greatest comic magazine published. It featured the first two *Joker* stories, a *Hugo Strange* "monster" thriller...*and* it introduced the *Catwoman!*

This untitled *CW* story in #1 has always been one of my favorites. Known then only as *"The Cat"*, the beautiful thief wore no feline mask, but was disguised as an old spinster who boarded a luxurious yacht intending to steal a precious emerald necklace from the hostess of a masquerade ball. Dick *(Robin)* Grayson was "planted" to spy as a ship's steward.

The "unforgettable scene" that marked the better stories occurred when the *Boy Wonder* was challenged by four disarmed gunmen. *Batman* stood aside as *Robin* smartly punched his way to victory. Three remaining crooks, still tied, refused to do battle with *Robin*, with one mutterring: "If I only had my gun..."

Batman, in the following panel, turned to face the reader and said: "Well, kids, there's your proof! Crooks are *yellow* without their guns! Don't go around admiring them...rather do your best in fighting them...and *all their kind!"*

And now in the first *Joker* story—

MF: Wait a sec, man! I *know* it was an excellent issue, but what about the *other* issues, like *my* favorite, *Batman* #5 (1941)? It had the most powerful character story I've ever read! It was named "The Case of the Honest Crook" and revolved around *Batman* going to the aid of a young man, Joe Sands, who had been framed by a mob while in his teens. After Sands had come out of prison, he was unable to hold a job because his employers wouldn't trust him with a criminal record. In final desperation, to pay his wife's medicine bills, he had turned to crime, whereupon he was captured by the *Caped Crusader. BM's* heart went out to him and he set out to put the record straight. During the course of the story, the mob beat *Robin* nearly to death and left him lying alone in a dark tenement house. When *Batman* found him he took him for dead and went on a wild rampage. You should have *seen* the scene he left behind him! Smashed doors, broken furniture...

BW: Uh, *Mike?*

MF: ...cracked jaws...yeah?

BW: I thought *I* was the one bein' interviewed!

MF: Oh...uh, sorry! Well, uh, what *other* memorable stories do you remember?

BW: I think most *all* of the early *Batman* issues are memorable! They featured such great adventures as: "Public Enemy No. 1" (BM 4)—a classic crime story which traced the tragic rise-and-fall of slum-raised Jimmy McCoy; "Four Birds of a Feather" a 1942 *Penguin* story (#11). A very human *Batman* was shot; he and Robin survived a tropical hurricane strapped to a palm tree; and a villainess operated to save his life. And of course I can't leave out "Here Comes Alfred" in #16 (1943), the story that changed the *Dynamic Duo's* life!

MF: But these were all in the very early days. They were some of the Caped Crusader's best days but surely there were great stories from *later* years?

BW: Well, I could devote this whole thing to the early 1940's. The later 40's and 50's weren't so great—

MF: WHAT?! Now there I've *got* to disagree! You mean to tell me that those beautifully touching Christmas stories that appeared almost every year from 1942 to 1948 weren't great? Or that something like "Knights of Knavery" (#25, 1944), which brought the *Penguin* and the *Joker* together for the first time isn't a classic? Or how 'bout "It Happened In Rome" (#24), which touched off the long-running time-travel series with Prof. Carter Nichols? Or the introduction of Vicki Vale and "The Scoop of the Century" in #49 (1948), that began many years of *Batman* being plagued by the snoopy redhead, who was obviously clued in by Lois Lane as to the advantages of bugging a costumed crimefighter? Or the—

BW: Okay—okay—you win...

MF: ...Thanks—I was getting outa breath!

BW: I'll admit that such stories as "The 1000 Secrets of the Batcave", #48 (1948) and "The Origin of Batplane II", #61 (1950) helped explain more of the lives of the *Dynamic Duo* and must rate as favorites.

MF: That's *better!* And don't forget the famous villain stories of the early 1950's—such as the "Catwoman reform period" (issues 62, 65, & 69) when the *Feline Felon-ess* abandoned crime for awhile and became a helper of *Batman* for a couple of stories before her pride overcame her and she returned to the underworld—or the classic *Killer Moth* stories in #63 & 64, which created the first real counterpart to *Batman*, with a *pistol* as the crook's *"Robin"!*

BW: Or that little obscure man named Joey Chill, who murdered Thomas and Martha Wayne and made a *Batman* out of *Bruce* Wayne!

MF: Now what about the more recent stuff? I'll never forget the dramatic "Robin Dies at Dawn" in *Batman* 156 (1963) nor the way the "new look" was introduced in #164 (1964) with the grabber of a cover depicting *BM* being shot down in mid-swing of the *Bat-rope.* "Zero Hour For Earth"—the beautiful spy novel in #167-and "The Remarkable Ruse of the Riddler" (#171)-from which the first *Batman-TV* show was adapted—quickly followed.

BW: Well, I tell today's readers that the *Batman* comics they read now will be the collectors' items of tomorrow, such as "Death Knocks Three Times" (#180, 1966), one of the best of the modern stories. This adventure combined much of old-time *Batman* greatness with the refined "new look"!

MF: Do you have anything to say to wrap this up?

BW: Yes, most definitely! The fun of reading the adventures of *Batman* is not confined to one generation. My favorites of yesteryear remain the same. Time has not dimmed my fondness for them, but I continue to read all the *Batman* stories of today for I know that tomorrow I will have new favorites to add to the old!